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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. A. Elchibey, on revealing the truth about crimes committed against Azerbaijanis and perpetuating the memory of the victims of Armenian terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC, MR. A. ELCHIBEY

The forces which today are encroaching on Azerbaijani lands with the insane idea of creating "Greater Armenia from sea to sea" have, for more than 170 years, been carrying out, openly or covertly, a policy of genocide against Caucasian Turkic peoples.

After the Russian Empire captured the Caucasus and, in particular, after the destruction of the Baku, Derbent, Kuba, Shcheka, Shirvan, Lenkoran, Gyandzha, Karabakh, Nakhichevan, and Erivan khanates, a consistent mass settlement of Armenians in age-old Azerbaijani lands and the expulsion of Azerbaijanis began. For that purpose, a special Armenian area called the Armenian Region was established, which subsequently became the province of Yerevan. The people of northern Azerbaijan, which was divided into five parts according to provinces, was subjected, within the framework of the colonial provinces, to merciless Armenian and imperial oppression.

Historical facts indicate that in 1828 and 1829 alone, 130,000 Armenians from countries in the Middle East were resettled in lands which were now called Armenia; another 600,000 Armenians came subsequently. In this way, the area's population increased from 161,700 in 1831 to 1,014,000 in 1914. At the same time, a total of 1.5 million Azerbaijanis were expelled from these territories.

From 1905 to 1907 and from 1914 to 1920, bloody clashes and massacres were provoked and approximately half a million people fell victim to overt Armenian terror.

As a result of the anti-Turkic Dashnak policy of "cleansing" (elimination of Turkic peoples), the number of Azerbaijanis living in Armenia decreased from 575,000 in 1918 to 11,000 in 1920, that is, 98 per cent were annihilated or expelled. In spite of the fact that Azerbaijanis were partially repatriated in subsequent years to their native lands and that in 1979 their numbers had increased to 161,000, the size of this ethnic group was not restored and it decreased, compared to its former size, by 3 and 1/2 times. In Azerbaijan, on the other hand, newly arrived Armenians settled down and their numbers increased from 240,000 in 1922 to 483,500 in 1970, in other words, they more than doubled.

From 1918 to 1920, atrocities were committed against Azerbaijanis throughout Armenia. Totally innocent men, women and children were subjected to unbelievably cruel torture and were killed. According to reports in the Armenian, Georgian, Azerbaijani and Turkish press, 60 villages were destroyed and the entire male population killed in the districts of Igdir and Echmiadzin; 22 villages were destroyed and 60,000 persons killed in the province of Geicha, 84 villages and 15,000 homes were destroyed in Eni

Bayazida; all the villages in the district of Yerevan and 96 villages and towns in the districts of Echmiadzin and Syurmala were destroyed; and 115 villages were destroyed and approximately 10,000 persons, including 4,472 women and children, were killed in the district of Zangezur. An appeal by Muslims living in the province of Yerevan addressed to the United States in 1919 indicated that 88 villages had been destroyed, 1,920 homes burnt down and 131,970 men killed. During those same years, in the mountainous and foothill areas of Karabakh approximately 150 Muslim villages were completely destroyed and the entire population plundered; part of the population was killed and the remainder was expelled by force of arms.

In 1918, members of the Dashnak movement killed tens of thousands of peaceful citizens in Baku, Shemakha, Kuba and other areas. In the mountain park in Baku alone, 18,000 victims of genocide were buried. In May 1920, the invading eleventh Red Army, with direct help from the Armenians, killed more than 12,000 Azerbaijanis in Gyandzha.

Research shows that the number of Azerbaijanis, Turks and Kurds who were killed, wounded, or forceably expelled, or who incurred material damage through Armenian terrorism in only two massacres that occurred in the Transcaucasian region in the first quarter of this century amounted to 2 million. The peaceful Azerbaijani population was plundered and persecuted in 1907 by the 100,000-man Armenian army, called the "Zinovary", in 1918 by Dashnak regiments in Baku and the Armenian military-terrorist "Chëtnik" and "Khmbabet" detachments in Karabakh and Zangezur, and in 1920 by the so-called Andronik "volunteer corps" and the 40,000 members of the armed forces of the Dashnak Government.

This national massacre was completed by the concession to Armenia of age-old Azerbaijani lands covering a total area of 9,800 square kilometres in the Basarkechars area of the district of Eni Bayazida, the Vedibasar area of the district of Yerevan, and the Zangezur district of the province of Gyandzha, which whet the usurpers' appetite for further territorial claims.

Leading Armenian officials, particularly the Shaumyan, Mirzoyan and Mikoyan group, caused great harm to our people by conducting an anti-Turkic policy in the Republic for many years. Owing to their criminal acts, the repression under Stalin and Beria was particularly severe in Azerbaijan. During the period of the totalitarian regime, hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis, primarily members of the intelligentsia, were subjected to cruel persecution and branded "enemies of the people", "kulaks", "nationalists", "panturkists", and "panislamists", and were shot or exiled to Siberia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

In Armenia, Azerbaijani cultural and historical monuments were plundered and mosques were destroyed; and the names of approximately 2,000 populated areas and place names of Azerbaijani origin were changed, including 465 villages during the period from 1933 to 1973 and 97 villages in April 1991. From 1947 to 1951, under the pretext of "expanding cotton production", 150,000 Azerbaijanis living in the mountainous part of Armenia were forcibly resettled

in the Mugan and Mil steppe regions. The process of turning Armenia into a monoethnic republic was continued in subsequent years through various methods.

Beginning in January 1988, provocative anti-Turkic and anti-Muslim sentiments were openly supported in Armenia. In Kafan, Yerevan, Masis, Dipizhan, Sisian, Kirovakan, Gukarka and other populated areas, acts of mass vandalism were carried out, as a result of which 225 persons were killed and 1,154 wounded, and 230,000 persons, including 15,000 Kurds and several thousand Russians, became refugees. The Armenians achieved their desired goal - creation of a monoethnic republic. Today in all of Armenia there is not a single Azerbaijani.

During the same period, the Karabakh adventure was under way and acts designed to instil fear in the Azerbaijani people were committed. In January 1990, troops of the empire were brought into Baku; peaceful inhabitants were shot; a curfew was imposed in the Republic for a long period; and mass arrests and other illegal acts were carried out.

For the fifth year now, Armenian armed forces have been waging an undeclared war in the territory of sovereign Azerbaijan. As a result, 119 Azerbaijani villages, towns and cities, including 56 populated areas in Karabakh, have been destroyed; and thousands of peaceful inhabitants, including women, children and elderly persons, have been killed or maimed. More than 230,000 persons have became refugees in their own land. The towns of Lachin and Shusha were occupied and burned to the ground. On 26 February 1992 the most horrible crime in recorded history was committed: more than 2,000 peaceful inhabitants of the town of Khojaly were shot in cold blood, maimed or taken prisoner by war criminals. The homes of approximately 10,000 persons were destroyed and their inhabitants were dispersed as refugees to other places.

Armenian terrorism, which was organized in the last century as a weapon of the empire against the Muslim population, knows no bounds. Not only in Azerbaijan but also in many other countries of the world the lives of hundreds of innocent persons have been taken, civilian aircraft and helicopters have been destroyed, passenger trains, buses and vessels blown up, and institutions and homes set on fire.

Drawing the attention of the world community to the fact that Armenians are resorting to cruel and, at the same time, senseless acts in pursuit of their criminal objectives, condemning all manifestations of terrorism and racial, national and religious intolerance and taking account of the moral and legal needs of those that have in one way or another suffered from violence, I consider it necessary to draw up a special juridical document on revealing the atrocities committed against Azerbaijanis and perpetuating the memory of the victims of Armenian terrorism and to refer all related questions to an in-depth discussion by the general public and political groups.

I believe that the opening of State and former party archives and a detailed analysis of all the documents and events will make it possible to

restore the good name of thousands of innocent persons and show in its true light the difficult path traversed by our people. Responsible workers in relevant organizations and departments, first and foremost, members of the creative intelligentsia, should be involved in this task. I hope that carrying out this honourable mission will serve to protect human rights, affirm justice and restore the truth, which some have sought to expunge from history.